

HopeTown Newsletter

Term 3 — 2011

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

It has been pleasing to see the progress some students have made at Hoptown this term. Kyle, Daniel, Aiden and Ben have all been successful in their transitions to mainstream school settings and are to be congratulated for the confidence, persistence, resilience and motivation they have shown. We would also like to thank the receiving schools for their patience, understanding and co-operation during the transition process.

NAPLAN results have been issued and the areas of strongest performance for Hoptown students have been in numeracy, reading, grammar and punctuation. Students are still having difficulties with writing and this has been a consistent characteristic with most students enrolling at Hoptown. Reasons why students have difficulties with writing range from problems with the physical processes of writing through to attitudinal and cognitive aspects. Students are being assisted with writing by staff providing such supports as adjustments, adaptations, scaffolds, relevance and motivators.

Apart from the academic programs at Hoptown, students have many opportunities for experiential learning and engaging in activities in the broader community.

We endeavour to broaden students' experiences so they can appreciate life's varied and numerous possibilities. This is an effective motivator, confidence builder and inspiration for those who have been at risk of disengaging from school life.

I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and viewing some of the activities students have enjoyed this term. *Terry Taylor*

Dates to remember

1st day Term 4 Monday 10th October

Bandanna Day 28th October

School Certificate 7th—9th November

Yr 7 Immunisations 8th November

Sandbar camps 21st—25th November

Presentation Day 13th December



STUDENT of the WEEK

Above: sweet smiles of success

Primary students have a new positive reward program in all classrooms called "Student of the Week." It rewards those students who have applied themselves well to their classroom goals and achieved the most stickers. It has so far proven a great success with some classes having to have more than one student of the week.

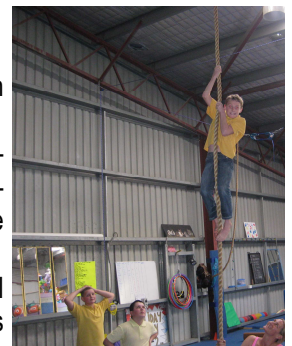
The rewards for students include gaining special privileges in their classroom and going to morning tea with the principal if they achieve "Student of the Week" for two weeks. The students are provided with a badge to wear for the week. If your child comes home with this badge, you can be sure they are putting in a good effort to improve their behaviour at school.

PRIMARY GYMNASTICS PROGRAM

During Term 3 many of our primary students participated in gymnastics at Kimnastix in Berkeley Vale.

This alternative Friday Sport activity allowed students to enjoy a range of games and physical challenges. Rope climbing, trampolining and beam balancing were just some of the activities experienced by the students.

It was very pleasing to see the students display a high level of enthusiasm and participation. Kim, our gym instructor, was very successful in making gymnastics fun for our Hoptown students.



NAIDOC WEEK

Primary school students celebrated NAIDOC by attending an excursion to Australia Walkabout Wildlife Park. The weather was fine while we were at the park. The students enjoyed patting the friendly mob of kangaroos that roamed the park.

The students then learnt how to make face paint and how to use wattle to wash their hands.

This was followed by a leisurely walk around the park to see the dingos, flying foxes and the reptiles. Some students showed great confidence when faced with the challenge of holding a snake!



After this, the students had a barbeque lunch before heading back to school.

The majority of the students are to be congratulated for their exemplary behaviour on the day.

The students also participated in other activities during NAIDOC week. Classroom Two painted a mural, Classroom Three painted boomerangs and Classroom One did hand printing. All classes participated in learning Aboriginal dancing.



CALGA WALKABOUT WILDLIFE PARK

This term Secondary students in Woodbury and Flinders classes went on an outing for NAIDOC Week. They went to the Calga Walkabout Wildlife Park. The day started with a stop at Somersby Falls where the boys enjoyed exploring the top half of the falls. This was an opportunity for the student to have a short break before embarking on the tour provided by Walkabout Wildlife Park.

Our guide was very helpful and provided opportunities for the students to pat a dingo, see a fruit bat up close, pat and hold lizards and snakes. Some students were initially reluctant to touch a snake but eventually developed confidence to pat the snake and enjoy it.



Some students partook in traditional face painting and all were interested in searching for their own supply of ochre.

Getting close to nature included being confronted by a bold and cheeky cockatoo that had the students trying to avoid being spat on, hit with sticks or having the cockatoo relieving itself on their lunches.



Reclining in the shade of a humpy

Smiggin Holes 2011

Mid August saw twelve students participate in Hopetown's outdoor education ski program at Smiggin Holes Perisher Valley. The eight hour bus trip, being away from home for seven days, learning and advancing skiing skills, helping out in the chalet, getting along with others and cueing at lifts proved ideal learning experiences to further our self awareness and regulation, empathy and most definitely resilience. All enjoyed a memorable and fun trip. The Chalet manager commented on the groups excellent behaviour and has extended an invitation for 2012.



Junior Café Fundraising

On the 24th August the Junior Cafe had a Fundraising Day for Ronald McDonald House. It was encouraging to see our students getting behind the cause and because of the great turnout we were able to raise \$70.00. Congratulations to Marcus and Aidan who worked very hard in making the morning a success by cooking such healthy and tempting treats. Students presented their fundraising proceeds to Kylie at McDonalds Mingara.



SMARTBOARDS

All primary classes were very fortunate to have smart boards installed in their classrooms during Term 3. While there have been some minor technical issues, it is hoped that they will be fully functional by the beginning of Term 4. Some of the primary classes have already started to use the boards and the students have shown great interest in using this technology.



Saunders Class

During Term Three students from Saunders class and several other students were invited to attend a soccer gala day held at Northlakes High School. The students participated in three games throughout the day and the boys gave 100% effort in all games. Although not all the scores went Hopetown's way, fun was had by all. The day was finished off with a BBQ lunch and presentation ceremony in which Hopetown was awarded the Sportsmanship Award for the day. This was a well-deserved achievement as all the students were supportive of each other and adhered to all umpiring decisions. Well done boys.



At school, Saunders class has been working well and heavily involved with the in-school work experience program. These activities include mowing, trimming edges, blower vacuuming and general garden maintenance. The students have also been learning about reptiles and amphibians and their life-cycle this term. This topic is particularly relevant with the sounds of frogs echoing through the school grounds this time of year.



Safe Boating Program

Students from Flinders class have been participating in a boating course this term. The Safe Boating Program has proven to be an engaging and valuable learning opportunity for all involved. Students have learnt about boat safety, maintenance, engine operation, navigation and have all experienced driving a boat. Many of the students who partook in the program will later sit an exam for the NSW Maritime Junior Boat Licence.

Bike Shed

The latest building project to take place at Hopetown is the construction of a bike shed. Most students have had some involvement in this project over the last 10 weeks. The bike shed is near completion and should be finished by the end of Term 3. Apart from providing much needed additional space, this project has allowed students to develop a number of new skills in building and construction.



Keian, from Saunders class, took his concept drawing of a go-kart and constructed the kart with the support of his teachers in the wood work room.

His was suitably proud of this achievement which was a testimony to perseverance and the experience of success.